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KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Employers, please chill

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

**Patients
prescribed pot
afraid of getting
fired, demoted**



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Employers need to start accepting medical cannabis in the workplace, proponents say.

Kait Shane, director of patient care with medical cannabis clinic Natural Health Services, said while patient numbers are quickly growing, most keep their medical cannabis use secret at work for fear they will be fired, demoted or unfairly judged.

"It's really outdated policies that some employers have in effect, including zero-tolerance policies, which are basically breaching human rights violations in that people can access medical prescribed medication as needed," Shane said.

Indeed, some patients say they have already been fired.

A man in his twenties, who spoke with Metro on condition of anonymity, says he lost his construction job in October after a drug test, following a personal injury incident.

"Martin" started using medical cannabis a year ago for insomnia.

When he told his employer he was using the drug, he said he was fired and told to take a rehabilitation course if he wanted his job back. "Going in, I never even knew that I wasn't allowed to be a medical cannabis patient in my industry," he said.

Shane said people have many misinformed ideas about cannabis use at work. She is pushing for employers to accept it like other prescription medication.

"If you're doing, for instance, a bit of THC at night because you have insomnia issues, it's still going to show up in your bloodstream, but you're not going to be impaired the next morning. You'll be better off for having had a restful night's sleep," she said.

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MARIJUANA

Avoiding Colorado's mistakes

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Pot legalization didn't solve everything for Colorado: that's one of the lessons Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley returned to Alberta with on her fact-finding mission as the province's go-to on pot policy.

As the province and municipalities wait for hints from the federal government on pot legalization, one thing is clear: a number of nitty-gritty legislation challenges will be falling on your local government's shoulders.

"It probably didn't solve all of the problems that proponents would suggest," said Ganley. "It also didn't result in a disintegration to social disorder the way some objectors would suggest."

She noted that Colorado made some mistakes in its legislation process, which Ganley hopes Alberta can avoid.

"They have had some problems in terms of regulating the level of THC in edibles," she explained, adding that because of the restrictions on smoking indoors, and in public, the edibles economy exploded.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi is meeting with Colorado officials, too. Last week, he met with the mayor of Denver to talk business, but mostly pot.

"Making such a big change at the federal level has huge implications on cities," said Nenshi.

Transit overhaul proposed

URBAN PLANNING

First glimpse into future plans for city's bus system

Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Anxiety ran high at the city's urban planning committee Wednesday as transit officials explained their plans to overhaul Edmonton's bus system for the first time in 20 years.

"What we heard from our customers that use the system today is that there needs to be changes," Edmonton Transit head Eddie Robar told the committee. But if you're wondering what

the changes could mean for you, Metro has you covered. Read on.

Frequency and speed

The new transit strategy transit officials detailed Wednesday could see a new network with more frequent service and more easy-to-understand bus routes in the core. The suburbs could see express buses that get people to their destinations more quickly during peak hours. There could also be park-and-ride lots for these routes, officials said.

Service cuts

The improvements in speed and frequency mean that some neighbourhood routes in the suburbs could either be scaled back or redesigned, though infrequent service would remain near schools, group homes or seniors' centres, officials said.

“Cities everywhere are turning to BRT because it costs way less than LRT. Kristine Kowalchuk

Some transit users are concerned the changes could make things worse. Glen Miller said he was extremely upset by service cuts to his route in September.

Miller said there was little consultation on the cuts, and he told the committee Wednesday he doesn't want commuters to be left out of the equation when changes happen again.

Sarah Feldman, the city's general supervisor of transportation and policy, assured the public will be well informed of any potential changes, noting Edmonton Transit spoke to 20,000 people regarding the overhaul.

But the city will have to make

some "tough choices," Feldman said. "Ultimately we're trying to provide the best service to the greatest number of Edmontonians in the community," she said.

BRT

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) networks are also on the table, though it's unclear what those routes would look like.

Feldman said the BRT routes could be built as if they were LRT lines, essentially becoming placeholders for the LRT until future lines are built. A lighter version of that can also be implemented, she added, where the BRT would be on regular roads.

Kristine Kowalchuk, co-founder of local advocacy group called Edmontonians for Responsible Urban Public Transit, would like to see the city create BRT that behaves like LRT.

She noted the city's auditor's report wasn't included in the debate, which called on Edmonton to develop BRT routes quickly.

"Cities everywhere are turning to BRT because it costs way less than LRT," Kowalchuk said. "They're so efficient that people wouldn't need to drive. What we would've hoped for was the city to put a pause on this so we could instead focus on BRT."

An illustration of the proposed network, which won't outline specific routes, will be released in the spring. Afterward, consultation on specific routes will occur before the final plan is proposed to council.



As the city moves to change Edmonton's transit system, Kristine Kowalchuk says the city should create BRT routes that act like an LRT. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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Shelters low on supplies

HOMELESSNESS

Agency calls for donations as temps dip dramatically



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

On Tuesday, when temperatures plunged to -20, a man showed up at the Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society wearing no coat — only a T-shirt.

Nicole Geoffroy, a spokesperson for the agency, said she was homeless and taken by surprise by the weather, but was far from the only one in need of clothing.

The last few days have seen temperatures drop from unseasonably warm to dangerously cold overnight, which has left agencies serving the city's most vulnerable racing to keep up.

Over at the Bissell Centre, spokesperson Darren Brennan



There are lots of bare shelves at the Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society this week, said spokesperson Nicole Geoffroy. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

said they've been in "survival mode," since Monday, with more than 500 people coming into the drop-in centre every day, many looking for clothing from their Community Closet program.

They've already run out of gloves, toques and long under-

“Every year it gets this cold, but it never gets this cold this fast.”

Darren Brennan

wear.

"It's heartbreaking to see people leave our centre without gloves when they're asking so desperately," he said, adding that it's not unusual to have people come in with frostbite or missing fingers from cold days in the past.

"Every year it gets this cold, but it never gets this cold this fast," he said.

Geoffroy said the Society is facing the same struggle, amplified because they also supply 20 other organizations.

Blankets are especially in demand, she said.

Workers in the vans that drive around to check on homeless people hand out 50-60 per night.

But at one point this week they had just 12 on the shelf, she said.

Both organizations put out calls for donations on social media this week.

Geoffroy said they're still in need of more, as what they have is going out as quickly as it comes in.

That latest homeless count in Edmonton tallied 1,752 people, though some organizations argued that number is likely higher.

People looking to donate to the Society can drop items off at 10255 104 Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays. The Bissell Centre accepts donations at 10527 96 Street between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

PAYDAY LOANS

Repayment options broaden

Another part of the Alberta government's new payday loan law has come into effect.

Lenders now are required to provide all loans with payback instalment plans that span at least three pay periods.

Borrowers can repay a loan any time between 42 and 62 days, and there is no penalty for early payback.

The number of pre-authorized withdrawals lenders can make from a borrower's account are also restricted to avoid extra fees.

It's part of legislation passed last spring to protect borrowers by enforcing lower interest costs and broadening repayment rules.

The president of the Canadian Payday Loan Association has said lending companies can't absorb the changes.

Lenders have long been criticized for charging fees that, if annualized, amount to more than 600 per cent interest. That can force borrowers — often lower-income earners — into a continuous cycle of financial catchup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AIR CANADA VACATIONS

Northlands site one step closer

DEVELOPMENT

Administration disapproved original Vision 2020 plan



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

A plan to repurpose Northlands sites is one step closer after a committee gave the go-ahead Wednesday to put it to a council vote.

"We need to come up with a smart, forward-looking plan for this area that capitalizes on its strengths and re-envision it for future generations," said Erik Backstrom, a senior city planner of nodes and corridors, speaking of the plan.

Backstrom said it could build on the city's transit-oriented development goals for the area, which encourage people to take public transit.

Earlier this year, the city threw cold water on Northlands' plans, when it found the organization's Vision 2020 plan didn't meet market demands and wouldn't solve its financial woes.

Council then tasked administration to develop a plan to re-work the site, as Northlands' lease on the land doesn't expire for more than two decades.

The sites include the race-track, horse barns and other lands.

For any development of the plan to officially go ahead, it will need to be approved at city council next week.

"This area, which has been a key celebration space in Edmonton for over 100 years, needs to continue to get better," Backstrom said. "We've got to improve upon it instead of letting it fall apart and get worse."

Consultations with Northlands and the public will continue, Backstrom added.

The city also has some money to look at redesigning




Northlands may look a lot different in the future as administration is set to begin planning to redesign the site. METRO FILE


the Coliseum and Stadium LRT stations. Backstrom said such redesigns would help improve the area and make way for development.

He said planners hope to start work in 2017 and intend to present their plan to council near the end of 2018.


Once it's complete, the current plan for the area will have to be repealed.



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Student suicide data alarming

MENTAL HEALTH

Those who considered or attempted, both increased



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The numbers are in, and in Alberta, mental health is still a crippling concern for students — despite a marked increase in funding.

Since reporting in 2013, the number of students who have seriously considered suicide rose from 9.5 to 13.1 per cent. And attempts, which in 2013 were pegged at 1.3 have jumped to 2.1 per cent according to the National College Health Assessment for the Alberta region.

Dexter Bruneau, the Council of Alberta University Students

(CAUS) chair, said the numbers are quite alarming, and show the need for campuses to continue receiving mental health-specific funding.

"People are feeling things are hopeless, overwhelmed, feeling exhausted, lonely, sad, depressed, anxiety, anger," said Bruneau, "with many of them at least two-thirds, nearing all, of students experiencing these things."

Debbie Bruckner, senior director of access and support with student wellness from the University of Calgary, said when you consider the amount of the post-secondary population those figures represent, it's staggering. But she, along with others in the field — and the provincial government — all noted it's in line with what they expected.

"That being said, in Alberta the post secondary institutions engage in discussion, so they certainly reflect our experience."

+ FUNDING

Students hope province will make support permanent

In 2016, the provincial government provided \$3.6 million in funding to post-secondary institutions, which enabled them to continue on with mental health programs they initiated with funding from the previous government.

The provincial government is working on a new model with stakeholders to give stable funding to post-secondary institutions. And that model should be implemented in the 2017 to 2018 school year. HELEN PIKE/METRO



Dexter Bruneau, The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) chair, hopes the government will consider a per-student funding model for mental health. JENNIFER FRIESEN/ FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

Escaped prisoner charged

RCMP have arrested a man who escaped from an Alberta Sheriff by stealing a prisoner transport van. Police say a man drove off from the Fort McMurray court house on Monday afternoon in the vehicle. RCMP then received a complaint about a dangerous driver. Lyndon Rankin, 21, faces escaping lawful custody, dangerous driving and other charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province appoints chief medical examiner

Alberta has appointed a new chief medical examiner. Dr. Elizabeth Brooks-Lim has been doing the job since July on an interim basis. Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley says the appointment will maintain stability in the office. In 2015 the province appointed Dr. Jeffery Gofton to the job, but he resigned during the summer citing family reasons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police lay first drone charges

TECHNOLOGY

Pilots need to be aware of Transport Canada rules



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton Police have charged a man in relation to the "unsafe" operation of a drone downtown, the first such charge in the city.

Bennett Alexander Hojka, 23, allegedly flew an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle — commonly known as a drone — in a "dangerous" manner near 105 Avenue and 104 Street.

The drone was reported flying near the MacEwan LRT Station, Rogers Place and the Royal Alexandra Heliport, which STARS helicopters use for medical emergencies.

Hojka faces charges of operating a model aircraft without a permit on parkland, contravening a municipal bylaw, and flying a model aircraft in a manner that is or could be hazard-



Police and experienced pilots urge recreational drone fliers to know the rules before taking off. METROLAND FILE

ous to aviation safety, breaking Canadian Aviation regulations.

Const. Binoy Prabhu said residents need to be aware of rules for drones as the vehicles gain popularity.

"With the holiday season here, many electronic enthusiasts may purchase or receive a UAV as a gift," Prabhu said, in a

release. "Please remember there are regulations for its use and that users should be familiar with and follow the Transport Canada guidelines."

Ryan Northcott, an operator with Alberta Drone Pilots, an Edmonton company that uses the machines for commercial photography, echoed those

concerns.

He said his clients are increasingly aware regulations exist.

"We get lots of questions about, 'Are you legal, are you insured, are you trained?' That's something that's blown up over the last year," he said.

Northcott said Transport Canada is communicating the rules

"We get lots of questions about, 'Are you legal, are you insured, are you trained?' That's something that's blown up over the last year."

Ryan Northcott,
Alberta Drone Pilots

for recreational fliers better than in the past.

He also said government plans to propose new rules for hobbyists next year would be a positive step.

"They could follow in the footsteps of the U.S. and create a registration program for hobbyists," he said. "That could help because you could track the person via the serial number on the drone."

Though that probably wouldn't have helped in this case, he added.

"That pilot obviously shouldn't have been doing that."

PIPELINES

Clark applauds Notley trip west

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley showed courage visiting British Columbia to voice her support for Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, Premier Christy Clark said Wednesday.

Clark said Notley bravely came to B.C. to make her province's case in favour of the \$6.8-billion oil pipeline project.

"I think Rachel Notley did the right thing," Clark said in a conference call with reporters. "I know it takes courage to come to a place where people may not be happy with the decision."

Notley was in Vancouver this week meeting with various media outlets, but did not hold any public events.

The expansion would triple the capacity of the existing pipeline, which runs from near Edmonton to Burnaby, B.C., and increase tanker traffic seven-fold.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently announced federal approval of the pipeline project, saying it was in the national interest.

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Janelle Venne was one of over a dozen volunteers at the U of A LRT station Wednesday, handing out 1,000 carnations to hijabi women as part of the 12-hour event. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Flower campaign counters racism

CAUSES

Alleged hate crime inspires daylong effort at LRT station

Sarah Hoyles
For Metro | Edmonton

Janelle Venne was one of dozens of volunteers handing out flowers to Muslim women Wednesday at the University LRT station.

The daylong effort, where volunteers are offering 1,000 carnations to hijabi women with the message, "This is for you," was in response to recent news of a man holding a noose and threatening Muslim women at the station.

More than a dozen volunteers stepped up to help in the 12-hour effort.

Volunteers raised money for the flowers through local donations and from donations outside the city.

In just 24 hours, the Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council raised \$500.

The flowers are in response to a Nov. 8 incident at the station, when an elderly man threatened two young women wearing hijabs.

One of the women took video of the man pulling a rope from his pocket, tying a noose with it before issuing the threat, "This is for you!"

The man then proceeded to sing O'Canada in front of the two women.

Yesterday, police arrested a suspect in the case.

On Friday, the Alberta Muslim

Public Affairs Council released a statement calling on police to fully prosecute the person involved.

"This was an example of hatred pure and simple," AM-PAC President Faisal Suri Khan said in the release. "We need to ensure that Islamophobia is discouraged in all its forms and the first step is doing that is to treat such actions as hate crimes."

Police have said a hate crime charge is possible.

Despite the arrest, Venne still feels it's important to extend support to the Edmonton Islamic community by extending a flower.

"We really want to drown out that racist message and send a message that doesn't represent all of us. It doesn't represent our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And it doesn't represent our values."

FINANCES

Debt firm urges residents to ease up on holiday spending



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

A firm that helps people manage debts is urging Edmontonians to rethink their gift-giving traits.

Sandra Landry, a licensed insolvency trustee with MNP Debt, says holiday shoppers should leave the malls behind and treat friends and family for a night out or dinner instead — after figures released by TransUnion Wednesday showed debt delin-

quency rates rising in Edmonton.

Average consumer non-mortgage debt at the end of the third quarter is up 1.8 per cent over last year, and Landry expects that to accelerate over the holidays.

"It doesn't have to be that you're less generous, it has to be that you're spending less money. People need to start finding other ways to give gifts," Landry said.

Many unemployed Edmontonians are continuing the same lifestyle and putting the same expenses on credit, she said, adding parents and grandparents

feel especially pressured to not let children and grandchildren feel the effects of their financial troubles.

This could lead to many people panicking with large debts in January.

"They need to remember that they're not alone in this," Landry said. "Chances are, half of their friends and their family are feeling the same pressure, and if people would just communicate and say, 'Hey, this year why don't we do things a little bit different,' maybe everybody can get a bit of relief."



Members of The Forge team pose outside the new venue.
MICHELLE WERAN

New life for old venue

MUSIC

The Forge takes over Whyte Avenue



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

A beloved Whyte Avenue music venue that sat vacant for 18 months is back with a fresh look.

The Forge has taken over the 250-person capacity, second-floor facility previously occupied by Pawn Shop Live on 105 Street and 82 Avenue.

Two shows are booked this weekend and a grand opening is slated for mid-January.

"The acoustic are great in there, the layout for the stage that was already there was great. It has the right feel to it," said Forge owner and general manager Dale Weran.

Weran has been booking shows since 2014 through a pro-

motions company also named The Forge. He's dealt largely in hard rock and metal but has recently branched out into softer rock, hip hop and EDM.

He said he wants to keep bookings as varied as possible and is opening the room to all promoters.

The Forge team, made up of about a dozen people who all play in local bands, has been working on renovations since Oct. 1.

They plan to decorate the walls behind the bars with live photos of local bands, and a graffiti artist will brighten up the secondary bar — which will become a staffed merchandise booth.

The stage has also been lifted and expanded.

While the Pawn Shop was ultimately unable to keep up with rent, and despite the fact music venue Filthys recently shut down nearby, Weran is confident he can get by booking a variety of arts events on a regular weekly schedule.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES

Economists say worst seems to be over

Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci met with key economists Wednesday to look ahead to 2017, with the consensus being the worst is over for the provincial economy.

But Avery Shenfeld, chief economist of CIBC, said how much things will improve is still up in the air and tied to the price of oil.

Ceci and the economists discussed a range of issues, including Alberta's looming carbon tax.

Shenfeld said while taxes are always a balancing act, the upside of the carbon levy is that it will be recycled back into the economy and is likely less harmful than, say, a higher direct tax on oil producers.

Mary Webb, with Scotia-Bank Economics, said what's good about the carbon tax is that Alberta has tailored it to suit its needs rather than having one imposed from the outside.

"All of Canada is going to be adjusting to a carbon price," said Webb.

She said when it comes to oil, they have to take into account not only supply, but also what the future demand will be given the growth in renewable energy.

"Renewable energy is obviously an area where we've seen already huge strides in technology that has impacted the price. It's now more affordable," said Webb.

The carbon tax takes effect on Jan. 1, hiking the cost of gasoline at the pumps and home heating bills to create a multibillion-dollar fund that will invest in green projects, such as rapid transit.

Shenfeld also acknowledged the government debt is set to reach \$58 billion by the end of the decade, and that future steps to rein in budget deficits will have an inevitable impact on growth.

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Spousal sponsorship to speed up

GOVERNMENT

Another \$25M allotted for immigration backlog

Ottawa has vowed to cut the processing times and backlogs for spousal immigration applications by more than half with an expanded annual quota for 2017 and a new simplified application kit available next week.

Starting immediately, most spousal sponsorship applications submitted in and outside Canada will be processed within 12 months, down from the current average of 26 months and 18 months respectively. Immigration Minister John McCallum announced on Wednesday.

"We have listened to Canadians and are delivering results. Bringing families together makes for a stronger Canada. Canadians who marry someone from abroad shouldn't have to wait for years to have them immigrate or be left with uncertainty in terms of their ability to stay," McCallum told a news conference in Brampton, Ont.

"What we are announcing today is a more efficient, more considerate process to reunite families."

Complaints by Canadians and their foreign spouses and dependants over long processing times and lengthy separations had fallen on deaf ears under the previous Conservative gov-

ernment.

Although the Liberals had made fixing the backlog a priority during the election campaign, the immigration department had been preoccupied with the ambitious project to resettle tens of thousands of Syrian refugees.

With an additional \$25 million allotted to reduce the immigration backlog in its 2016 budget, the immigration department has managed to reduce the processing times of spousal sponsorship applications by 15 per cent for inland applicants and by more than 10 per cent for those waiting overseas.

The government also raised the annual quota for foreign spouses and dependants this year to 64,000 people from 47,000 in previous years. With limited spots and increasing demands, the backlogs persisted and grew over time.

Sponsorship applicants welcomed McCallum's announcement, but remained cautious of the government's commitment.

"There are mixed emotions from all spousal sponsorship applicants due to actions we've seen over the recent year," said Leah Campbell, a member of the self-advocacy group, Canada Spousal Sponsorship Petitioners.

"I hope that these words and promises turn into action, and quickly, not soon or in coming months, as Minister McCallum is famous for saying," added the American woman, who is married to a Canadian and has been waiting for a year for her permanent status. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Ammario Reza stands outside Parliament on Wednesday. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Reform survey hackable

An Ottawa man said he has voted multiple times in the Liberal government's new democracy survey and believes it's designed to fail.

Ammario Reza said just by using different devices and logging onto a café's Wi-Fi he has managed to vote multiple times in the mydemocracy.ca website.

"All it asks for is a postal code and that's it. It accepted the results," he said. "It just kept accepting the results over and over again."

He said he backs a move to a proportional representation system and was disappointed the survey wasn't more substantial.

He said it feels like a survey geared to deliver an incomplete answer.

"They're really trying, as desperately as possible, to get a result that they could interpret



All it asks for is a postal code and that's it. It accepted the results.

Ammario Reza

in a way that would suit them," he said.

David Valentin, executive vice-president of Mainstreet Research, said the inclusion of a postal code actually helps create a survey that will be fairly measured.

"If 1,000 people in my postal code in Montreal fill out the survey, our responses are only going to count proportional to our population."

He said the open-ended survey likely aims to ensure people actually want the voting changes that are being talked about.

"I think what the government is really trying to gauge with this survey is whether or

not there is a desire within the Canadian populace to change the voting system," he said.

Much like launching a new product, Valentin said this survey will give the government a sense of what people want to see change and what they want to stay the same.

"You're not going to propose a product until you know what the needs are."

He said the government can do all kinds of surveys and polls, but a survey like this is probably the best gauge of what Canadians will want.

"That one probably is going to give you the best sense of whether it will actually pass."

SASKATOON

Biker has a bad back, but no coke connection

A member of the Hells Angels says he never intended to ship cocaine from Ontario to Saskatoon but strung along a police informant because the man was his sole source of drugs for his back pain.

Rob Allen, 36, testified Wednesday at his trial for cocaine trafficking, charges laid under the RCMP's Project Forseti, which saw 19 locations raided across Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Noel Harder, the Crown's only witness in the case, has testified police instructed him to continue working on a plan to see Allen organize the movement of cocaine between the provinces.

Allen testified that Harder pestered him constantly about using his contacts with Hells Angels in Ontario to get cocaine.

Under questioning from the Crown, Allen insisted he never had any way of actually getting cocaine delivered to Saskatoon, but said he strung Harder along in order to avoid losing his source of OxyContin, which he became hooked on after injuring his back.

In earlier testimony, Harder acknowledged that Allen often delayed meetings or came up with reasons why his Hells Angels friends in Ontario couldn't meet up.

He acknowledged he never actually got any cocaine from Allen.

Under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Crown can secure a trafficking conviction by proving there was an offer to sell drugs, even if no drugs actually change hands.

Allen is a full-patch member of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, according to an agreed statement of facts in the case.

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Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett looks on as Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde speaks during a session at the AFN Special Chiefs assembly in Gatineau, on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipelines in centre stage

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS First Nations split over energy projects

A First Nations leader from northern Alberta is urging his fellow chiefs to resist buying into the arguments of environmentalists opposed to pipeline projects and the oilsands.

Fort McKay Chief Jim Boucher said his small community of 800 Cree and Dene people is dependent on the oil industry for its economic well-being.

In the 1980s, Boucher said his reserve turned to the oil industry when its trapping economy was "going in the tank", noting the partnership has led to employment for band members.

"We are pro-oilsands," he said. "If it wasn't for the oilsands, my people would be in poverty right now."

The debate about controversial energy projects, including the Kinder Morgan pipeline, recently approved by the Liberal government, took centre stage Wednesday at an Assembly of First Nations meeting.

"We want you to understand that it is not a clear-cut issue," Boucher said.

"Our people will be affected if the economy goes down in Alberta, especially the oilsands economy. Our people will be put out of work — we will back on that social list."

It is critical to ensure industry does not divide First Nations, said Kanesatake Grand

Chief Serge Simon — a Quebec Mohawk leader who is part of the Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion.

In September, indigenous people from Canada and the U.S. signed an agreement to fight plans to build pipelines, saying additional development will harm the environment.

"I'm not going to let the industry divide Chief Boucher and myself," Simon said. "I just don't agree with expansion of the tarsands."

Indigenous leaders have a responsibility to block threats to the land, water and their people, he added.

"First Nations are going to be the first climate refugees," Simon said. "There's no doubt about it."

Natural Resource Minister Jim Carr personally contacted Simon and apologized for remarks for suggesting "defence forces" might respond to non-peaceful protests.

Canada not only tolerates dissent, but it embraces dissent, because it is an essential characteristic of being Canadian, Carr added outside a Liberal caucus meeting on Tuesday.

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde has acknowledged that First Nations are split over pipelines, including the Kinder Morgan link between Alberta and suburban Vancouver.

His organization does not have an official position on the project, but Bellegarde said communities maintain the right to self-determination.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GOVERNMENT

Climate plan won't lay out specific path

The long-awaited pan-Canadian climate plan to be finalized this week by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the premiers won't include a detailed account of how Canada will meet its international 2030 emissions target.

Federal sources tell The Canadian Press that while there will be a list of climate policies taken by various governments, don't expect to see a balance sheet laying out the specific path to 524 million tonnes of

greenhouse gases.

That number represents Canada's 2030 "nationally determined contribution" — representing a 30 per cent emissions cut below 2005 levels — that the Liberal government pledged at last December's UN-sponsored Paris climate conference.

There's been a lot of water under the bridge since then.

Trudeau emerged from the 2015 election promising to meet the premiers within 90 days to

lay out a pan-Canadian climate plan after almost 10 years of federal-provincial climate gridlock.

A first minister's conference in Vancouver last March resulted in a plan to make a plan, and climate policy measures at the municipal, provincial and federal level have been rolling out ever since.

But the piecemeal policies have yet to be drawn into a clear trajectory to the national 2030 target. A number of en-

vironmental organizations hope to see one following Friday's meeting.

Erin Flanagan of the Pembina Institute think tank and others are quick to praise policy moves so far — including a federal floor price on CO2 emissions starting in 2018 — but also note the Liberal government's recent major fossil fuel infrastructure approvals take Canada's emissions profile in the wrong direction.

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IRAQ UN scrambling to shelter displaced

The UN is scrambling to find enough land to shelter those displaced by the fighting to retake Mosul from Daesh as humanitarians brace for the exodus of as many as 700,000 people from the city, an official said Wednesday.

Bruno Geddo, the UN's top humanitarian official in Iraq, said that there is currently enough space in camps for 180,000 people.

"That is the thing that makes us somehow sleepless at night. You cannot be complacent when you still have one million people inside the city," he explained.

Geddo said he and his colleagues were haunted by the memory of Fallujah where some 65,000 people fled the city over three days during an operation to retake the city from Daesh in June, quickly overwhelming humanitarian efforts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES Trump selects hardliners

Donald Trump embraced new Cabinet officers Wednesday whose backgrounds suggest he's primed to put tough actions behind his campaign rhetoric on immigration and the environment, even as he seemed to soften his yearlong stance on immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

It's clearer by the day that Trump's policies as president won't be settled until after he takes his seat in the Oval Office. Retired Marine Gen. John Kelly has been selected to head the Department of Homeland Security, and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a climate-change denier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands take refuge in mosques after Aceh quake

INDONESIA

Nearly 100 people killed, hundreds more injured

Thousands of people in the Indonesian province of Aceh took refuge for the night in mosques and temporary shelters after a strong earthquake Wednesday killed nearly 100 people and destroyed dozens of buildings.

Some were homeless after the quake made their houses unsafe and others were too scared to return home. Killer quakes occur regularly in the

region, where many live with the terrifying memory of a giant Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake that struck off Sumatra. The magnitude-9.1 quake triggered a devastating tsunami that killed more than 100,000 Acehnese.

Maj. Gen. Tatang Sulaiman, chief of the army in Aceh province, said at least 97 died in the magnitude-6.5 quake that hit before dawn Wednesday, while four people had been pulled from the rubble alive. The Indonesian government declared a two-week emergency period in Aceh and some aid was already reaching hard-hit areas.

The rescue effort involving thousands of search officials, villagers, soldiers and police is



I'm really scared about a tsunami. I don't want to return home tonight.

Siti Rukiah

concentrated on Meureudu, a severely affected town in Pidie Jaya district near the epicenter. Excavators and rescue teams removed debris from shop houses and other buildings where people were believed to be buried.

The pace of the search slowed after night fall, hampered by rain and blackouts.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake was centred about 19 kilometres southeast of Sigli, a town near the northern tip of Sumatra, at a depth of 17 kilometres. The agency had

initially placed the epicenter undersea. It did not generate a tsunami.

Siti Rukiah, 51, a mother of four, was among the many people taking refuge in local mosques. She and about 100 other people from Pante Raja, a seaside village in Pidie Jaya district, fled to Nur Abdullah mosque located on higher ground in a nearby hamlet.

She said the quake was shallow and felt so powerful she had to grab onto a table to keep from falling down. She was sure a tsunami

was coming.

"I'm really scared about a tsunami," said Rukiah, whose brother and neighbours died in the 2004 disaster. "I don't want to return home tonight, not only because my house is damaged, but I am still afraid an aftershock could cause a tsunami."

Aceh's disaster mitigation agency said more than 600 people were injured. The national disaster agency said about 245 buildings were seriously damaged or destroyed in Pidie Jaya and neighbouring Bireuen district, including 14 mosques. The rest were mainly dwellings and shop houses. Roads also cracked and power poles toppled over.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Family members gather around earthquake victims in Pidie Jaya, Aceh province, Indonesia, on Wednesday. A strong earthquake rocked Aceh province, killing a large number of people and sparking a frantic rescue effort in the rubble of dozens of collapsed and damaged buildings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OLYMPICS

Japan worried emoji will confuse tourists



Rebecca Chiu
Metro | Toronto

Japan is worried Westerners visiting for the Olympics in Tokyo will be confused by a popular map and sign symbol indicating hot springs, and expect food to be awaiting them instead.

The country is more than three years away from hosting the 2020 Summer Games, but officials think the onsen symbol looks too much like a plate of hot food with steam rising from it.

The symbol representing hot springs is already included in emoji sets from



Japan might change the 'onsen' symbol — meant to indicate hot springs. Officials worry Olympics tourists could mistake the symbol for hot food. TWITTER.COM

both Apple and Google, who have taken inspiration from Japan's maps and signs.

The companies could have

to do the same if Japan decides to make the change.

The country is reviewing some 90 other symbols as

Japan prepares to host the Games and the tourists, athletes and media that come with the event.



Destroyed homes near the downtown area of Gatlinburg, Tenn., are shown on Mon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two charged in wildfire

TENNESSEE

Juveniles could be charged in adult court, says attorney

Authorities on Wednesday charged two juveniles in an East Tennessee wildfire that killed 14 people and destroyed or damaged more than 1,700 buildings in an iconic tourism spot at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Officials offered few other specifics about how they think the two started a fire that levelled buildings into charred scraps, carving a deadly path through the Gatlinburg area.

People scrambled in terror to try to flee on foot or drive out of the inferno that often cloaked them from all sides, shooting hot embers through the winds. Some spent days hoping for good news about their missing loved ones.

The juveniles face aggravated arson charges in the fire in the Chimney Tops area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Nov. 23. That fire grew amid drought conditions and ultimately rode winds exceeding 87 miles per hour into the Gatlinburg area early last week. Authorities have not yet announced a dollar amount on the damaged caused by the wildfire.

The two are being held in the Sevier County juvenile deten-

tion centre. "Our promise is that we will do every effort to help bring closure to those who have lost so much," said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn.

The juveniles are from Tennessee, but not Sevier County, where the fires spread. Otherwise, officials said state law prevents releasing more information about them.

Karyssa Dalton, a 19-year-old whose grandmother Pamela Johnson remains missing in the blaze, said the two should be held accountable, even though they're young.

"I mean, what if somebody came through their town, and set their town on fire, and lost their loved ones, and lost all their homes?" Dalton said. "It's not fair."

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Chief Ranger Steve Kloster said the public was "critical" in offering investigators information through a tip line.

The investigation is ongoing and more charges could come. It's also possible that the case could be transferred to an adult criminal court, said local District Attorney General James Dunn.

On Wednesday, Gatlinburg residents and business owners were allowed to move back into homes and establishments permanently. They had been allowed to visit during daytime hours since last Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILDLIFE

Hunter accused in bear killing sues six

A hunter who says he was falsely accused online of killing a New Jersey black bear that walked upright on its hind legs and became an Internet celebrity has sued six social media posters.

John DeFilippo's attorney filed the suit Tuesday in state Superior Court. It seeks undisclosed compensatory and punitive damages for defamation and invasion of privacy.

The suit stems from the apparent death of the bear Pedals during the first part of this

year's state bear hunt. The animal walked upright because of an injury and was seen strolling around New Jersey neighbourhoods in videos posted on social media and shown on television.

State wildlife officials believe Pedals was killed during the expanded bear hunt staged in October. The Department of Environmental Protection released pictures showing the lifeless body of a black bear with injured paws, just like the ones Pedals had, but couldn't confirm the identity be-

cause Pedals was never tagged.

The name of the hunter who apparently killed the bear hasn't been released.

"The First Amendment protects the freedom of speech, but not all speech," DeFilippo's attorney, Wolfgang Robinson, said in a statement to NJ.com. "There is no such thing as a constitutional right to make false statements about others. The defendants that have been named in this lawsuit falsely stated that my client harvested Pedals the Bear."

He did not."

The suit states that various Facebook pages devoted to Pedals began appearing as rumours spread that the bear had been killed. Several posts on these pages purportedly named DeFilippo as the hunter who killed Pedals, according to the suit, and some referred to him as a "bear murderer." Some posts also stated people would be "gunnin'" for DeFilippo and he "would get his due," the suit alleges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VICKY MOCHAMA

An ode to Canada's own pronoun protector

I had hoped that if we stopped caring then one day Jordan Peterson would gracefully go away. In many interviews with the nation's press (And well, naturally. Of course. Who else?) He tells of how he was once a prof at Harvard just so you know he's the best, a super smart nerd.

As a professor, though, it seems he'd be a pest. Because, as the breadth and scope of his views suggest, He has no real interest in citing his sources. Or going back to solely teaching his courses.

But he won't fade away; no, he simply will not. He's determined to keep the outrage fires hot. Talking to C2C Journal, a mag of ideas, He shared a few of his own, and I was all ears: He won't use gender pronouns like xe, xim or xer. It's his right not to do so. (The law protects this cur.)

Yet none of that is new — not worth the contention, It's his other views that bear paying attention: Women weren't discriminated against, says he. An untruth so bold as saying a cat is a tree.

Although out his depth, he continues to swim: The pill makes girls dislike macho men like him. What the research truly says, if you care to know is women's choices change, along with their flow. So in amplifying our tastes, the pill plays a part: It won't make us hate men — we do that cause it's smart.

Peterson spouts lines from Breitbart, The Daily Mail where science gets turned into a right-wing fairy tale. He worries he'll be fired for speaking his truth. I'm more concerned that he's teaching our youth.



Dr. Jordan Peterson, the controversial, and newly apostrophized, University of Toronto professor. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EMMA TEITEL ON A SNUBBED SUFFRAGETTE

I was ticked off that Nellie McClung wasn't going to appear on money until I revisited the life and times of my childhood hero and learned some unsavoury things



When I was a kid I had two heroes: Queen Hatshepsut, the fifth pharaoh of the eighteenth dynasty of Egypt, and Nellie McClung, the late and great suffragette of Winnipeg.

Needless to say, these women did not have a lot in common. Queen Hatshepsut wore a fake beard and is believed to have gone to bed with her architect, Senenmut, on a regular basis. Something tells me that McClung, a no-nonsense Christian and a teetotaler, wasn't a big fan of sex out of wedlock (even with a master builder) or, for that matter, dressing up in drag.

But like Queen Hatshepsut, McClung was a big fan of women's legal rights — a cause she fought long and hard for alongside the rest of "The Famous Five": Henrietta Muir Edwards, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Emily Murphy.

In 1929, McClung and her peers successfully petitioned for a woman's right to be appointed to the Senate in the landmark "Persons Case" — now immortalized in Canadian history textbooks and more importantly, on TV, in its very own Canadian Heritage Minute. (When it comes to an important event in Canadian history, I do wonder, if there's no Heritage Minute to show for it, did it really happen?)

McClung was also a fierce proponent of property rights for married women, children's health and dental care, and safe working conditions in the typically gruesome factories of the day.

It's no wonder why so many

A nation's currency is a public resource used by all Canadians, including the mentally disabled

of us assumed she'd be the first non-royal female face to appear on Canadian currency.

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced earlier this year that a woman's face would at long last grace a Canadian banknote, McClung was believed by many to be a shoo-in for the position. And yet, despite being the fa-



COMPLICATED LEGACY Nellie McClung, shown in an undated photo, was left off the short list of famous Canadian women who are in the running to appear on a banknote.

C. JESSOP/NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

avourite choice in online polls, McClung was not selected to appear on the official short list of female currency candidates. The final decision will be revealed Thursday.

In no particular order, the short list comprises E. Pauline Johnson, Viola Desmond, Elizabeth MacGill, Fanny Rosenfeld and Idola Saint-Jean: all remarkable and worthy candidates (whose achievements range from resistance to racism, to writing, to Olympic running), but who are also arguably far less known than McClung. And it turns out, far less controversial.

The McClung omission ticked off a lot of people. It ticked me off too, until I revisited the life and times of my childhood hero and learned some pretty unsavoury things about the suffragette that my textbooks

may have glossed over (or that I may have chosen to ignore). McClung did a lot of good, but she did a lot of bad too. And I'm not referring to the predictable breed of bad that almost everyone in her day was party to (for example, a casual prejudice against minorities and gay people). I'm talking about the kind of bad

to few; it's a public resource used (and abused) by all Canadians, the mentally disabled and the mentally ill alike. And I'd much rather see a person-age grace my dollar bills who didn't count "legislate eugenics" among her life's greatest achievements. (Also, for the record, there are dozens of other ways to immortalize Canadians with complicated legacies; a more useful question than "Why isn't Nellie McClung on our money?" is "Why aren't there more films and TV shows about the Famous Five?")

Some critics of the McClung omission, such as Shannon VanRaes of Metro Winnipeg, argue that eliminating the suffragette from the running on account of her sterilization advocacy is proof of a sexist double standard. There are, after all a multitude of morally bankrupt men on our banknotes. Why should their faces remain crumpled on the cash in our purses, while McClung's is relegated to history textbooks?

But this argument is misleading. Because the question before us isn't about bank notes past — when people rarely, if ever, questioned the commemoration of a historical figure on account of his or her sins against a marginalized group. The question before us is about bank notes present. And in the present moment, and in the age of president-elect Donald Trump no less, it's a good thing that we don't jump to immortalize historical figures on our national currency who championed eugenics.

This isn't proof of an outdated sexist double standard. It's proof of a modern moral standard that bends toward the dignity of everyone.

Emma Teitel is a national affairs columnist for the Toronto Star.

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COURTESY
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Dress to be the hottest person at the party



It's that time of year again. Jack Frost nipping at your nose, yuletide carols sung by a choir, and folks dressed up like ... well, thank goodness we're here to help you with that last one. Toronto-based fashion stylist Hazel Ong suggests using seasonal festivities as an excuse to sport something you wouldn't any other time of year. Oh, and: "wear something you can dance all night in," she says. Here are some outfit suggestions, broken down by personality type. **NICHOLE JANKOWSKI/FOR METRO**

The Flirt: show off a work-appropriate erogenous zone

December is still cuffing season, so if you're single and looking to lock one down then consider showing off this season's totally office-party appropriate erogenous zone: the shoulders. Off-the-shoulder has been everywhere since spring but for men, JW Anderson has been doing it since Fall/Winter 2013. Choose a seasonal fabric like a velvet or metallic.



The Centre of Attention: helical striped stockings

If you want to be the most talked-about person in the room then candy cane-striped stockings are for you. Pair red and white tights with a floral or brocade dress for the most impact. The Balenciaga Fall/Winter 2016 runway version seen here is available online, but for \$195 it might be worth checking your local sex shop first. Remember, you're looking for a helical stripe that winds up the leg — the idea isn't to look like the Wicked Witch of the West, you want your gams to look like two barber poles.

The Foodie: cinnamon browns and biscotti beiges

If you are what you eat, then why not dress the part? From cinnamon browns to biscotti beiges, head-to-toe nudes are everywhere thanks to Yeezy Season 3 and the Kardashian clan. May we suggest a gingerbread man-inspired ensemble? Choose an overcoat or blazer with oversized buttons to really finish the look.



Rihanna in Christian Dior and Solange Knowles is pictured at a Eckhaus Latta show. Knowles is also wearing Brother Vellies shoes, designed by Canadian Aurora James and carried at Nordstrom's The Space. PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR AND MIREYA ACIERTO/GETTY

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4 SCI-FI READS TO HELP YOU ESCAPE

Mad worlds, some with shopping, others with familiar characters, make up the latest reads for science fiction fans arriving on shelves TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

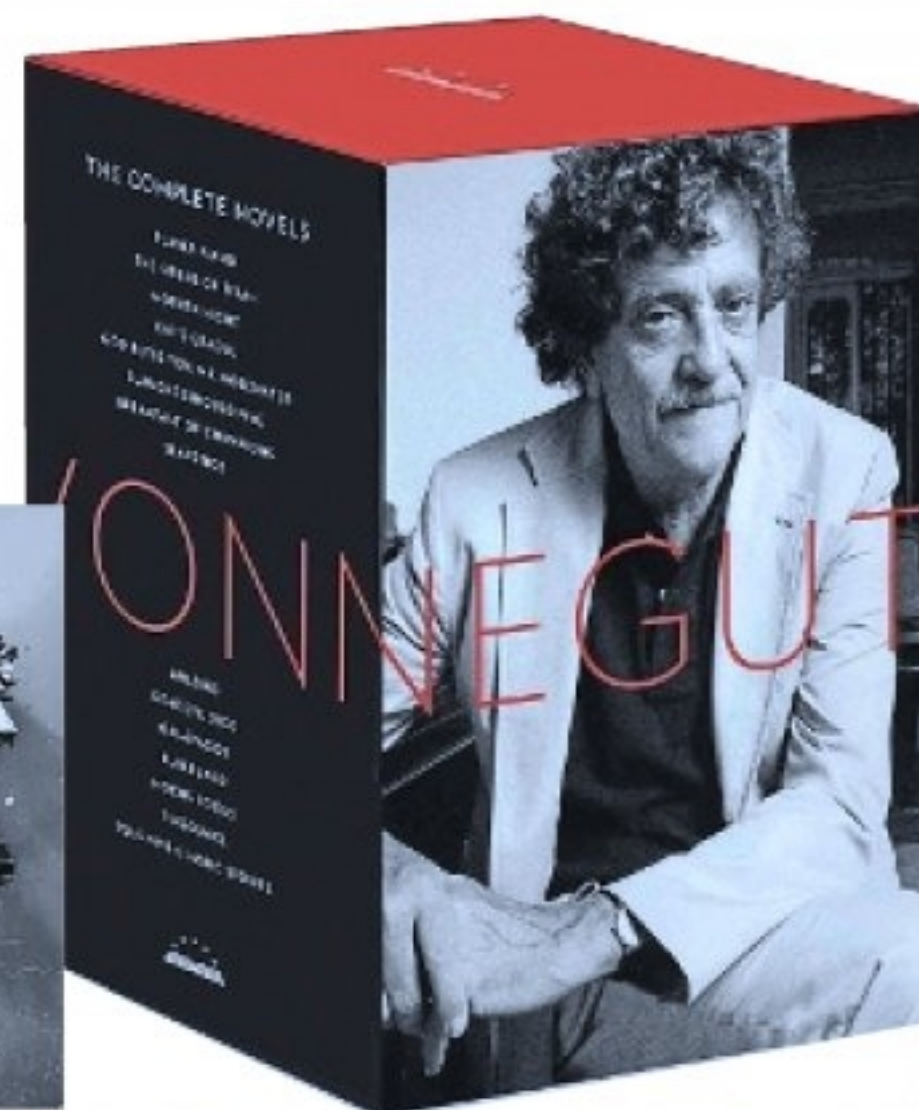
Cyber World: Tales of Humanity's Tomorrow

At one point in time, some 20 or 30 years ago, "cyberpunk" seemed the future of SF. Today it's a term that isn't used as much, but only because, as editor Joshua Viola puts it in his intro to this great new anthology, "we live in a cyberpunk world."

Our interaction and codependent relationship with intelligent technology, the directed evolution of humanity by drugs or other forms of augmentation, an inescapable global digital culture, are all part of our everyday reality.

The lively and imaginative stories collected here take us even further into this cyber world, envisioning a diverse future that seems more likely every day.

(Hex Publishers, \$14.99, 245 pages)



The Tourist

Fans of time-travel stories and books that require more than one reading to figure out will likely enjoy *The Tourist*, a novel by Robert Dickinson that encourages such loops.

The setup has it that, in the future, going back into the past has become part of the travel industry, so visitors from the 24th century can take package tours of our own time.

Apparently shopping malls are among the most

Normal

Spending a lot of time thinking about the future can be depressing, especially if it's your job.

The strain might even lead to a breakdown, followed by a stay at the Normal Head Institute in Oregon, an off-the-grid and into-the-woods asylum for strategic forecasters and foresight strategists.

Looking into the abyss of what's to come, these people have been granted an excremental vision of the future.

Everything is going to pot.

In Warren Ellis's short, parable-like novel *Normal*, the professional futurist Adam Dearden comes to Normal Head and uncovers a mad conspiracy cleverly concealed among the mad.

If he can clear his head of drugs and avoid any pesky nanobots he may be able to unravel it all and find some answers to important questions about where humanity is headed.

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$18.00, 160 pages)



Kurt Vonnegut: The Complete Novels

Kilgore Trout, a prolific author of paperback SF, is a recurring character in Kurt Vonnegut's writing. Though not commercially successful, Trout's books endure hard use, turning into bundles of paper resembling "lopsided old softball[s], swaddled in different sorts of tape."

If that describes the condition of the Kurt Vonnegut paperbacks on your bookshelf, and it probably does, you might want to treat yourself to this deluxe edition of all 14 of his novels published by the Library of America. Every title is included, along with a nice selection of stories, essays, introductions, and other material wrapped up in a four-volume box set. Vonnegut's attitude toward SF was ambivalent. On the one hand he was aware of how it could become a dangerous drawer for an author to be placed in, "since so many serious critics regularly mistake the drawer for a urinal." He was, however, always drawn to SF as a form of satire. (Library of America, \$186.00, 3,317 pages)

popular destinations, as they are as good a place as any to check out the best our civilization has to offer while getting ripped off by "natives" selling 21st-century junk.

On one such expedition a tourist goes missing. Then it's not clear if the tourist was ever there in the first place. The search for this time-skipping Bunny Lake then turns into a truly baffling political conspiracy involving secret agents, time machines, and various end-of-the-world scenarios. (Redhook Books, \$34.00, 352 pages)



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Noah, natural-born storyteller

BORN A CRIME

An Outsider living in apartheid South Africa

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



When Trevor Noah was a kid, his mom would tell stories about how talkative he was. It was like

he had a radio in his chest, she would say.

Well before he became one of South Africa's most famous entertainment exports — first as a stand-up comedian, and then as host of the late-night Daily Show — Noah was a natural storyteller, a gift he no doubt inherited from his mother, Patricia, who also emerges as the fierce hero of his new memoir, *Born a Crime*.

Told in 18 personal essays that are in turn humorous and horrifying, *Born a Crime* revisits Noah's early years living in apartheid South Africa as the child of

a white Swiss man and a black Xhosa woman. The title refers to the fact that under apartheid rule, mixed-race relationships were illegal and could land a couple in prison, and any resulting offspring could be taken away without warning. Noah's relationship with his father was kept hidden, and even rare walks with his mother were fraught with tension. Although apartheid ended when Noah was six, its legacy of poverty, violence and racism remained a constant in his family's lives.

While writing the book, Noah

sought out friends and family who reminded him of his early life, and retold their memories.

"I tried to keep the book sounding like I'm telling you the stories, as opposed to a journalistic foray into my life," he says.

Similar to other celebrity memoirs such as Patti Smith's *Just Kids*, Noah's coming-of-age tale makes little reference to his future success.

"My main intention was always to stay in around my childhood stories, to give some insight into the world I grew up in," he says.

Growing up, Noah's world was shaped by his lighter skin tone: considered neither black nor white, he became something of a curiosity in both communities. Happily a loner, he spent his time indoors reading books and creating imaginary worlds; he now observes how being on the periphery has helped him living abroad in New York.

"The great thing about being an outsider is that it forces me to empathize and to acknowledge that the world isn't just the way that I see it. You know that communication won't always be met with the utmost enthusiasm," he says. "When I'm at the Daily Show, or even doing stand-up and travelling, you are essentially trying to communicate across worlds. It's something that I really enjoy doing."

As a teenager, Noah figured out how to use his outsider status to his advantage. Upon Patricia's insistence, he learned six languages, a skill that enabled him to slip in and out of various social cliques, and squeak out of trouble. It laid the groundwork for his stand-up act, which often features mimicry, and gave him an understanding of how comedy can contain various rhythms, depending on the language spoken.

"When you move between different languages what's really fun is you think in a different way completely," he says. "You explore parts of your personality in a different way."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Trevor Noah shares 18 personal essays about growing up as a child of a white Swiss man and black Xhosa woman in apartheid South Africa. GETTY IMAGES

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PERSON OF THE YEAR

Time magazine's 'Divided States of America'

Time magazine on Wednesday named Donald Trump its Person of the Year, bestowing what the president-elect called an "honour" even as he derided the idea that he'll lead "the Divided States of America."

That was a reference to Time's cover line — "Donald Trump: President of the Divided States of America" — that was positioned next to the cover photograph of

the president-elect sitting in his residence at Trump Tower.

"I didn't divide 'em," Trump said on NBC's Today show. "We're going to put it back together and we're going to have a country that's very well-healed."

Time editor Nancy Gibbs said the publication's choice was a "straightforward" choice of the person who has had the greatest influence on events "for better

or worse."

Trump climbed from fiery underdog in the race for the GOP presidential nomination to winning the White House and defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton in the Nov. 8 election. Trump won 306 electoral votes, easily enough to make him president when the electors meet on Dec. 19. Clinton won the popular vote.

He won in part by articulating

in blunt, populist terms the racial, economic and other factors that divide Americans, many of whom have not felt the nation's recovery from recession. Trump stomped campaign traditions and social norms, including by insulting women, Muslims, Republican leaders, a reporter with disabilities and more. He also praised Russian President Vladimir Putin and last week

irritated China and broke diplomatic norms by speaking by phone with the leader of Taiwan.

"When have we ever seen a single individual who has so defied expectations, broken the rules, violated norms, beaten not one but two political parties on the way to winning an election that he entered with 100-to-1 odds against him?" Gibbs said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Brad Pitt's request to seal custody filings rejected



Brad Pitt intends to seek temporary custody orders and wanted those documents sealed to protect his children's privacy.

GETTY IMAGES

PRIVACY

Agreement calls for visits guided by a therapist

A judge on Wednesday rejected Brad Pitt's request to seal details about custody arrangements in his divorce from Angelina Jolie Pitt.

Los Angeles Superior Court Richard J. Burdge Jr. denied Pitt's request in a brief written order that states the filing did not meet the requirements for sealing details at this time. Pitt had sought to seal details of his custody dispute with Jolie Pitt at an emergency hearing, but Burdge declined to hear the petition on an expedited basis.

Pitt's motion came two days after the release of a custody agreement that he and his estranged wife reached in late October. The agreement calls for the

actor to have visitation with his children under the guidance of a therapist.

Pitt intends to seek temporary custody orders soon, and his filing states that he wanted those documents sealed to protect the children's privacy. He was also seeking the sealing of any custody-related filings.

"I am extremely concerned that if court records regarding custody are not sealed, information contained therein will cause irreparable damage to our children's privacy rights," Pitt wrote in a sworn declaration filed Wednesday.

Pitt's attorney Gary Fishbein declined comment after the hearing.

Jolie Pitt filed for divorce in September and currently has primary custody of their six children.

Her attorneys wrote in court filings Wednesday that Pitt's request was an attempt to shield himself from embarrassing details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I am extremely concerned that if court records regarding custody are not sealed, information contained therein will cause irreparable damage to our children's privacy rights.



JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

The rewarding luxury of time

THE SHOW: Westworld, S1, E10 (HBO)

THE MOMENT: The Escape

Maeve (Thandie Newton), a robotic madam, seems to have achieved human consciousness. Now she's busting out of the eerily lifelike Westworld theme park, along with human scientist Felix (Leonardo Nam) and two gunslinger robots, Armistice (Ingrid Bolso Berdal) and Hector (Rodrigo Santoro).

They ride an elevator down to the lab. They traverse a hallway of glass-walled rooms; in them, robots learn to gamble, bathe, have sex. Suddenly, an army of security guards fires at them.

Armistice and Hector duck into a storage room, where scores of naked robots stand. They slit a guard's throat. Armistice grabs his gun. Chortling at its power, she offs several guards.



Ingrid Bolso Berdal, Leonardo Nam, Rodrigo Santoro and Thandie Newton in a scene from the Westworld season finale.

CONTRIBUTED

The foursome barge into a power-generating room, then into another lab. In here, however, the robots are Samurai practicing swordplay.

"What is this place?" Maeve

asks.

"It's complicated," Felix answers.

It sure is.

Yesterday I wrote about The Crown's pricey production val-

ues. Westworld's budget makes The Crown's look spare. In this single sequence, there are multiple sets, hundreds of precisely costumed extras, elaborate stunts, and CGI. Yet this isn't an exception — every sequence is like this.

Here's the true marker of HBO's financial commitment, though: The network allowed series creators Lisa Joy and Jonathan Nolan to shut down production in the middle of season one so they could craft a richer story. And they won't air season two until 2018, because Joy and Nolan need a year to write.

Extras, costumes, sets, CGI — all are costly. But in TV, the most lavish luxury — and the most rewarding — is time.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

#YEG NEWS

The Kit Compact—Canada's fave beauty and fashion brand—brings you Edmonton's best holiday style

FESTIVE DREAMS

We asked three stylish locals to share the #1 item on their wish lists

SANDY JOE KARPETZ, @theprettysecrets

"A cross-body bag is always a good buy, but it's even better when it's embroidered with my favourite childhood cartoon (and personal hero): Charlie Brown."

OLYMPIA LE-TAN BAG, \$1,323, OLYMPIALETAN.COM



VICKIE LALITIS, @advinfashion

"My holiday wish list has only one item on it—the Gucci Princetown leather slippers. They're the ultimate in throw-on-and-go dressing!"

GUCCI SHOES, \$715, GUCCI.COM



ALYSSA LAU, @imalyssalau

"Off-the-shoulder tops are nothing new, but Canadian designer Eliza Faulkner somehow manages to breathe life into the style with a bright pop of colour and the most adorable puff sleeves."

ELIZA FAULKNER TOP, \$275, ELIZAFALKNER.COM



SHOPPING: LIT CANDLES

Behold, eight days' worth of seasonal candles to set your world on fire—and solve your gifting dilemmas



1. BASALT CANDLE IN SAINT VIOLET, \$45, BIBELOTANDTOKEN.COM. 2. NEST FRAGRANCES BIRCHWOOD PINE CLASSIC CANDLE, \$56, SEPHORA.CA. 3. CATBIRD TAROT DECK TRAVEL CANDLE, \$25, EASYTIGERGODS.COM. 4. VANCOUVER CANDLE CO. NEIGHBOURHOOD COLLECTION CANDLE IN KITSILANO, \$38, VANCOUVERCANDLECO.COM. 5. ACQUA DI PARMA LAVANDA CANDLE, \$112, NEIMANMARCUS.COM. 6. LAKE LOUISE BREEZE CANDLE, \$10, INDIGO. 7. MUGLER ANGEL ÉTOILE DES RÊVES PERFUMED CANDLE, \$98, SHOPPERS DRUG MART. 8. DYNAMITE VANILLE CACHEMIRE CANDLE \$15, DYNAMITECLOTHING.CA

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Project overview

Contemporary family townhomes are a sought-after commodity in Edmonton, especially when they're affordable yet near all the amenities of the city's northwest. The Strand in Rosenthal is that type of development, offering spacious family living around parks and lakes, with housing features that meet the needs of today's discerning homeowner.

Housing amenities

The Strand in Rosenthal's modern and stylish three-bedroom townhomes offer 1400+ square feet of spacious living, in standard or open-concept layouts. Balconies with window planter boxes — perfect for herb gardens — join standard features like oversized double attached garages, quartz countertops, tile backsplashes and laminate flooring.

Location and transit

Tucked into the northwest pocket along Winterburn Rd/215 St., and near the major arteries of the Yellowhead, the Whitemud and the Anthony Henday, The Strand is situated conveniently for commuters who need quick 20-minute access to downtown or post-secondary sites. There's also plentiful bus service leading to nearby West Edmonton Mall transit exchange—and buses to all city points.

In the neighbourhood

The Aspen parkland in West Edmonton allows for natural beauty to exist near banks, grocery, retail and shopping. Walking trails, spray parks and the River Cree Twin Arenas offer family-friendly recreation, with the Lewis Estates Golf Course and River Cree Casino moments away. West Edmonton Mall is also nearby.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: The Strand in Rosenthal
Builder/developer: Footprint Developments/Strand Homes
Location: Northwest Edmonton, off Stony Plain Rd.
Building: 60 townhome units, bordered by lake and greenspaces
Pricing: \$323,000 to \$354,000

Sizes: 1,564 sq. ft to 1,627 sq. ft.
Model: Open-concept or standard layout, three-bedroom contemporary townhomes
Status: Now open/selling
Sales Centre: 1077 Rosenthal Blvd.
Phone: 780-915-7899
Website: strandhomes.ca

DESIGN

Saddle up in style on new rocking horses

The rocking horse, offspring of the hobby horse, seems to have appeared first in the early 17th century. Not much more than a log with board sides, it may have been inspired by the cradle, according to Alec Kinane of Legends Rocking Horses in Buckinghamshire, England.

"The horse on bow rockers that we know and love today was a product of 18th century England," Kinane says. "It was popular with the wealthy, and it is said they were used to help

develop children's balance for riding real horses."

Kinane and his wife, Beverly, have been hand-carving and restoring rocking horses for 30 years. Their finely finished steeds, crafted from hardwoods like oak and cherry, with real horse hair manes and tails and leather saddles, sell for thousands of pounds.

It may have been Queen Victoria's love of the rocking horse that led to its becoming a children's favourite.

There are less elaborate wooden rocking horses, like KidKraft's Derby horse. More of a horse-shaped rocking bench with yarn mane and tail, it's nonetheless a sturdy-looking steed.

But for those who want a rocking toy they can put their arms around, consider the cuddlier versions that dominate the market now.

Charm Company's Hercules is a regal creature made of soft chestnut plush on a wooden frame; squeeze his ear and his

mouth and tail move. Trademark Games' Happy Trails rocking horse is a cowgirl-friendly pink confection, complete with silvery ears and a battery-operated neigh.

Designers are experimenting with rocking toys beyond the horse, as well. Woes and Pia Weinberg of the Netherlands use Kvadrat wool and French oak to create three style-savvy rocking toys in shapes that surprise: a grey cloud, a jaunty bowler hat and a slice of watermelon.

Rockabye's Lambkin and Owliver rocking toys are low enough to the ground for the tiniest riders. Four buttons play songs about shapes, colours and ABC's.

Finally, future sailors might like the Maine Dory rocking boat. Crafted from salvaged Maine lumber.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



HANDOUT

A space befitting the holidays

TIPS

A few updates can make all the difference in the world

Glen Peloso
For Torstar News Service

It's beginning to look a lot like the time people start thinking about hosting friends and family in their homes for the holidays — and perhaps wanting to get a new kitchen installed beforehand.

Guess what? That's not going to happen. Renovations require a lot of time, but undertake these five projects now and you'll have a space fit for entertaining faster than Santa can slide down a chimney:

Spruce up the kitchen

No matter where you try to put them, guests always end up in the kitchen — so consider updating it. Paint and hardware



Your guests will inevitably end up in the kitchen, so why not embrace it? Repainting cabinets and changing hardware will give the space a fresh new look. iStock

date a kitchen, so repainting cabinets and changing hardware will achieve a fresher, modern look.

Changing countertops will have an impact on the whole

room and there are a variety of surfaces to choose from: granite, marble and laminate, but natural stone surfaces offer durability. This may also be a good time to replace ancient

appliances, so you can pull off a roast beast and side dishes, no problem.

Boost the bathroom

Guests are also bound to visit

this room. Paint or wallpaper can subtly or dramatically change the look of the space, while a new faucet in clean and sleek lines can freshen a tired-looking sink and vanity.

Towels can inject a new colour or lend texture with pattern into the room.

To really up your game, consider a self-cleaning toilet. American Standard has come out with the ActiClean toilet that includes a one-minute or nine-minute clean at the press of a button. You may never fret again when unexpected guests drop by.

Create a focal wall

The dining room warrants a little more attention, since it is really used during the holidays. Use paint or wallpaper to create a focal wall. Then place something you want to highlight on or near this wall — a fantastic artwork or a sideboard.

The idea of a feature wall is to draw focus to something beyond just the wall, so have a compelling reason for the feature.

When it's well done, it can leave your guests thinking you've completely renovated the room since the last time they came to your place.

Be prepared

With lots of people coming and going, there are bound to be some messes along the way.

Guests can feel terrible when they accidentally spill or break things in your home, or when slush and debris on the soles of their boots end up on your floors.

Have items such as a wet mop, scrub brushes, paper towels, stain remover, a broom and dust pan, and even a hand-held vacuum cleaner at the ready so you can jump on those little messes quickly, prevent other accidents and keep the party going.

Glen Peloso is principal designer of Peloso Alexander Interiors, national design editor of Canadian Home Trends magazine and a design expert on the Marilyn Denis Show on CTV.

GARDENING

The different ways that plants make our lives better

Mark Cullen
For Torstar News Service

I have only been hospitalized once in my adult life. I spent a couple of days in Toronto East General (now the Michael Garron Hospital) three and a half years ago, recovering from radical prostate surgery, and came to understand why so many hospitalized people just want to go home. Perhaps, with a measure of luck, there are windows at home.

My hospital room had a window that overlooked a bank of air conditioners that whirled endlessly. If I looked out over the HVAC units I could see a street lined with trees.

One tree stood out, not for any particular reason other than it was big enough for me to see from a distance. Its dominance of the horizon impressed me, and I focused on it as I struggled with the pain from a substantial incision.

I would look at that tree and reflect on the time I would spend appreciating trees more deeply when I was released from the hospital.



By some measures, patients who gazed out at a natural scene were four times better off than those who faced a wall.

It turns out I am not unique in this regard.

In the early 1980s, a researcher visited a hospital in Pennsylvania and gathered information about patients who had gallbladder surgery. In those days, a gallbladder patient would need a week to two weeks of recovery in the hospital.

According to Adam Alter, assistant professor of marketing and psychology at New York University's Stern School of Business, the hospital had views of a brick wall on one side and on the other, a view of a stand of trees.

Other than that, the rooms were identical. "How did patients recover, relative to their physical location?" researchers asked.

You are likely way ahead of me on this and have already guessed that the view of the

trees produced the most positive results.

The patients with the view of the brick wall needed, on average, an additional full day to recover.

Consider the math on this and let us assume each of the patients stayed for a full two weeks. The patients who overlooked the brick wall stayed for one extra day. Fourteen days versus 15 days equals a longer stay by seven per cent.

The study goes on to reveal that, by some measures, patients who gazed out at a natural scene were four times better off than those who faced a wall.

Since this study took place at Paoli Memorial Hospital in Paoli, Pa., myriad other studies have proven the same basic principle: we NEED nature. She helps us

heal and focus.

When I am old and unable to get to places under my own power, I hope someone will wheel me down to the front door of the seniors' home to catch a bus to a nearby forest.

In Japan, people have been heading to forests for generations and it is a growing trend today. Shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing, requires people to walk or just sit in a densely wooded forest for extended periods of time.

Compared to people who walk through urban areas, forest bathers experience lower blood pressure, lower pulse rates and lower cortisol levels, a marker of reduced stress, a Japanese study suggests.

Experiences with Mother Nature do not provide the perfect process for aging or hospital recovery, but they sure can help.

Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, Order of Canada recipient, author and broadcaster. Get his free monthly newsletter at markcullen.com. Look for his new bestseller, *The New Canadian Garden*, published by Dundurn Press. Follow him on Twitter @MarkCullen4.

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Fans tap out before the action



Lacklustre card generating buzz for the wrong reasons



How different things might have been.

Toronto's Massey Hall was sleepy and hollow Wednesday at lunchtime as the first foray of UFC 206 fight week summed up so much. As Anthony Pettis — one half of the headline act of the organization's first pay-per-view card on Canadian soil in almost two years — took centre stage, there were barely 60 souls inside the grand old venue.

Had original plans come to fruition, the place would have been packed to the rafters. When the UFC announced its return to the Air Canada Centre in August, the expectation was this would

be the new regime welcoming back an icon of the past.

The UFC had been sold for \$4.2 billion in the summer and as much as Conor McGregor and Ronda Rousey's wild popularity had helped drive up the record price tag, the founding fathers played their part too, none more than Georges St-Pierre.

Now the man behind the initials GSP would finally be returning front and centre. St-Pierre, who hasn't fought in three years, enrolled in USADA's drug testing program which, as it happened, would have made him eligible to return by this Saturday. There were just contractual negotiations to navigate.

And then nothing happened.

Talks were fruitless, barriers insurmountable. The UFC instead announced Daniel Cormier would put his light heavyweight title on the line against Anthony (Rumble) Johnson in the main event of a fight card that was shallow on names and left fans deep on reservations. There was even a social media push for a boycott.

Two weeks ago Cormier got injured, a new main event was fabricated from thin air and



Anthony Pettis spars during a UFC 206 workout in Toronto on Wednesday. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

things went from bad to worse to Wednesday — the eerie emptiness inside Massey Hall. All of this in a country and city that five years ago shattered the sport's record when 55,724 fans packed into the Rogers Centre for UFC 129.

"It's unfortunate that Rumble and Cormier couldn't fight, but I don't know if people were quite excited about that anyway," said Mark Hominick, the retired UFC

fighter who served as GSP's supporting act on that historic 2011 card. "Behind the scenes, the UFC were definitely hoping to have Georges. That would have been such a highlight for Canada, to come back in Toronto and headline a home card. That would have been huge."

Instead Pettis and Max Holloway are headlining a card that has left many questioning the relationship between Canada

and the UFC. In short, it's complicated.

The new regime hasn't done much to inspire confidence north of the border, laying off almost the entirety of its Canadian office including its well-liked chief, Tom Wright. The country's most high-profile competitor, B.C.'s Rory MacDonald, was allowed to jump ship to rival organization Bellator. Now comes a pay-per-view that

many fans consider barely above free-to-air Fight Night standard.

It's all a world removed from the turn of the decade when the UFC held nine Canadian PPVs in the space of three years. There have been just two in the three years since.

But, according to Hominick, Canada hasn't quite been holding up its part of the bargain either.


"Georges leaving was huge and no one has really stepped up to fill that void," he told Metro. "There was so much pride with being Canadian and having Georges represent us. What we need is to get a new crop of stars and get behind them."

It was perhaps best summed up by one of Saturday's home-based fighters. Olivier Aubin-Mercier was asked yesterday about being booked for the preliminary card, which airs on TSN, rather than the usually much higher profile pay-per-view portion.

"I like to be on the prelims because all my friends and family don't have to pay the pay-per-view," said the Quebec Kid. "Unfortunately I think for this event, there will be more viewers for the prelims than the pay-per-view. Even if the main fighters are a really interesting fight ... the pay-per-view is going to get hit."

How different things might have been.

Unfortunately I think for this event, there will be more viewers for the prelims than the pay-per-view. Olivier Aubin-Mercier



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>>> 

James, Irving, Love knock out Knicks



New York Knicks guard Courtney Lee, left, defends as Cleveland Cavaliers guard Iman Shumpert shoots a three-pointer.

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Cavaliers trio all hit over 20 to snap New York's streak

LeBron James scored 25 points, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love also surpassed 20, and the Cleveland Cavaliers crushed the New York Knicks 126-94 on Wednesday.

James had nothing to say Wednesday morning about Knicks president Phil Jackson and not much more about his decision to not stay with the team in a Donald Trump-branded hotel, but he and the Cavs made a loud statement at Madison Square Garden.

It was their second straight win after a three-game skid, and they did it easily in handing the Knicks their worst loss of the season. Irving led Cleveland with 28 points and Love scored 21, 16 in the first quarter.

Brandon Jennings scored 16 points for the Knicks, who had their four-game winning streak snapped and lost for the just the third time in 10 games.

Tristan Thompson grabbed 20 rebounds for the Cavs. They

WEDNESDAY In NYC

126 **94**
CAVALIERS KNICKS

played without guard J.R. Smith, who returned to Cleveland for additional testing after hyper-extending his left knee Monday in Toronto.

It was the first meeting since James was angered when Jackson referred to his friends and business partners as a "posse" last month in an ESPN interview. James refused to answer questions at the Cavs' shootaround about Jackson, who watched the game from his usual seat a few rows back of centre court.

Love and Irving made consecutive three-pointers to kick off a 20-4 spurt that extended a one-point lead to 34-17 and the Knicks never really recovered. They trimmed it to nine late in the first half, but James had a ferocious dunk during the Cavs' run of six straight points, and another burst to open the second half pushed it to 71-48 on Irving's three-pointer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marco Reus GETTY IMAGES

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Dortmund bests Madrid in Group F

With a late equalizer by substitute Marco Reus, Borussia Dortmund drew 2-2 with defending champion Real Madrid on Wednesday to win Group F and set a scoring record of 21 goals in the group stage of the Champions League.

Karim Benzema netted in each half to give Madrid a 2-0 lead, but forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang pulled the German side closer in the 61st and Reus struck the equalizer in the 88th.

Dortmund finished the group with 14 points, two more than Madrid.

Cristiano Ronaldo was score-

RESULTS

- Tottenham 3, CSKA 1
- Porto 5, Leicester 0
- Lyon 0, Sevilla 0
- Club Brugge 0, FC Copenhagen 2
- Bayer 3, Monaco 0
- Legia Warsaw 1, Sporting 0
- Real Madrid 2, Dortmund 2
- Juventus 2, Dinamo Zagreb 0

less for the fourth straight time in the Champions League.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jones stuck with loss by Swiss at the National

Winnipeg skip Jennifer Jones dropped an 8-3 decision to Switzerland's Binia Feltscher on Wednesday afternoon at the National being held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Jones, who's coming off an impressive Canada Cup victory last weekend, gave up three points in the opening end and four additional points in the fifth.

In men's play, reigning Canada Cup champion Reid Carruthers of Winnipeg topped American John Shuster 7-5. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Masse and 4x50 relay team win silvers for Canada

Canada raced to a pair of silver medals at the world short-course swimming championships on Wednesday.

Kylie Masse of LaSalle, Ont., picked up one in the women's 100-metre backstroke, the event in which she won bronze at last summer's Rio Olympics.

And Yuri Kisil, Markus Thormeyer, Michelle Williams and Sandrine Mainville performed well to earn second place in the mixed 4x50 freestyle relay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wild hold on to edge Leafs

Eric Staal continued to find success against Toronto, scoring what turned out to be the game-winner as the Minnesota Wild beat the Maple Leafs 3-2 on Wednesday.

Staal has 47 points in 43 career games against Toronto. Three of his six goals this season have come against Toronto.

Jason Zucker and Chris Stewart also scored for the Wild (13-8-4), who wrapped up their five-game road trip 2-1-2. Ben Smith and Tyler Bozak found the back of the net for the Maple Leafs (10-10-5). THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh For Metro Canada



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Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 500 g pasta
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 shallots, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped sage, plus more for garnish
- 1/4 cup ricotta
- 1 cup pumpkin purée
- 1 cup chicken broth
- fresh grated nutmeg to taste
- Salt to taste
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish

Directions

1. Cook pasta according to directions. Once al dente, reserve 1/4 cup of the cooking water and drain.

2. While pasta cooks, heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add shallots, garlic and sage and cook until tender, 5 to 7 minutes.

3. Add the ricotta, pumpkin purée, chicken broth, nutmeg and a pinch of salt; stir until combined.

4. Stir in pasta and coat with sauce. Add reserved pasta water to thin sauce to desired consistency. Mix in Parmesan cheese.

5. Serve pasta with sprinkling of Parmesan cheese and chopped sage.

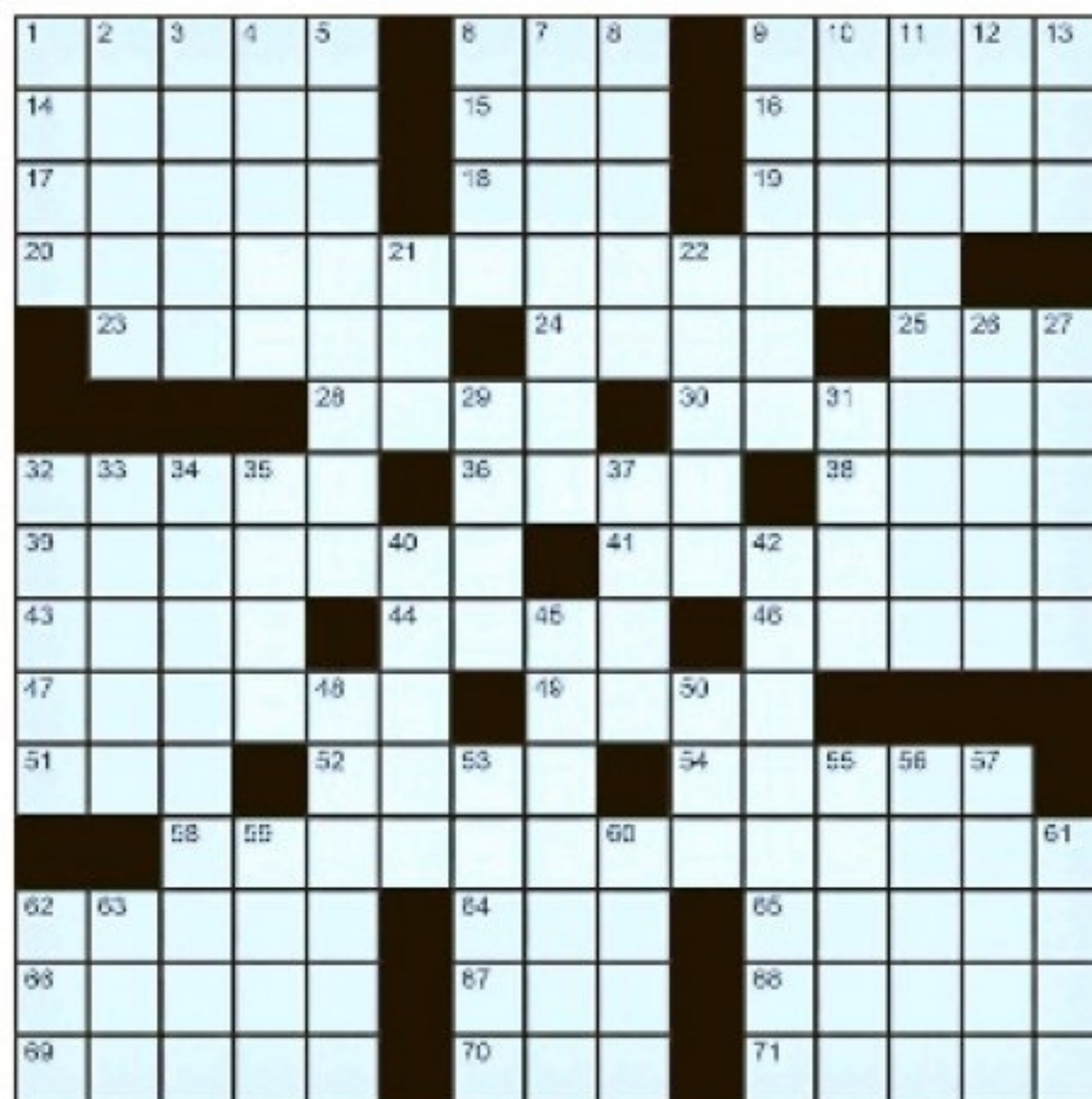
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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Cramp
- Ship's stern
- Got Z's
- __ couture
- Quarrel
- Real estate listings
- Those in the know, __ circle
- Rapa __ (Easter Island)
- "West Side Story" (1961) character
- Canadian journalist (b.1938 - d.2005) who anchored "ABC World News Tonight": 2 wds.
- Merle Oberon title role film of 1941
- Ms. Moore
- "Gimme a __" (Wait!)
- Tea service piece
- Green-on-copper
- Theatrically shows approval
- "Coach" star, Jerry Van __
- Rime
- Discounted
- Pasta consistency with a bit of a bite: 2 wds.
- Mr. Sharif
- Meddlesome [var. sp.]
- Not yet established
- Red-suited Christmastime workers
- Eyeline of ancient Egypt
- Mr. Barrett of early Pink Floyd
- Gem type



- Antelope of Africa
- Town in Quebec on the Richelieu River: 2 wds.
- The blabs
- Matterhorn, for one
- Bert's pal
- Cake shop

- 'levels'
- Hall & Oates
- Architectural base
- "In case you __ noticed..."
- Currency in Japan
- Fishhook line

DOWN

- Transport
- Comic strip square
- Like your uncle's wife
- War horse
- Most in the mood for Christmas
- "Rule, Britannia"

- composer
- Metal castings factory
- String
- Ms. Twain, Canadian music superstar
- Lengthy
- Air-affecting discharges
- Dog or cat

- US airport screening org.
- Skull section
- Urge forward
- Related maternally
- Symbol on a computer keyboard's 6 key
- Taro root
- And so...
- Christianity symbol
- Catriona __ Doan (Canadian Olympian/broadcaster)
- Like a rusty car sitting out in the middle of nowhere
- Component
- Boxing match ender, informally
- Come to pass as a consequence
- Lack of shine
- Sunny yellow - Cloud white ...and what other 'up there' hue?: 2 wds.
- Painter or sculptor
- "And I Love __" by The Beatles
- Gisele's football hubby Tom
- Item worn in the kitchen
- Jack of "Twin Peaks"
- Feared tool at the dentist's office
- The Byrds' repetitive song title word!
- Stratford-__-Avon
- Boat's stability provider
- Ordinal suffix
- Ms. Long

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today the Moon is in your sign, magnifying your emotions. Keep this in mind if you start to overreact to something going on around you or to something someone says.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Work alone or behind the scenes, because this will suit you best today. You are ambitious right now. However, you should wait to get all the facts before you take action.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
A personal discussion with a female acquaintance will be meaningful for you today. In fact, this person might influence you to change your future goals.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Personal details about your private life seem to be public knowledge today, especially in the eyes of bosses and VIPs. Do you need to do some damage control?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do something to expand your world and give yourself a sense of adventure. Go someplace you've never been before. Shake things up a little!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today is a good day to focus on financial matters related to inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt. Clear up loose details if you can.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Because the Moon is opposite your sign today, you have to be cooperative with others. Be tolerant. Be compromising. At the very least, listen to what others have to say.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do something to make yourself feel better organized and more on top of your game. Tidy your work area. Make some proactive lists. You want to get back in the game!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a playful, lighthearted day. Enjoy romantic liaisons with others. Fun activities with children will delight. The arts, sports events and social occasions are great choices.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Home, family and your private life are your top priorities today. A conversation with a female relative will be important.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Trust your hunches today. Instead of thinking things through, you might have a feeling about what you should do. Sometimes, this works better.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Finances are on your mind today, and that's a good thing. It's important to know what you own and what you owe, because information is power. Get the facts so that you are in the know.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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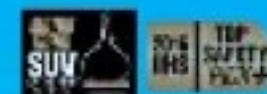


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